

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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JAMES M. CANTWELL
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BONDING, CAPITAL EXPENDITURES
AND STATE ASSETS

PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION

STATE LEGISLATIVE CO-CHAIR

COASTAL CAUCUS

Attn: Antitrust Division
Office of Attorney General
One Ashburton Place, 18th Floor
Boston, MA 02108

Attorney General Martha Coakley:

I am writing to express my support for the proposed settlement with Partners Health Care relating to its merger with South Shore Hospital. I also want to applaud you for promoting cost containment and ensuring direct care positions will not suffer as part of this merger.

As a lifelong resident of the South Shore, I believe it is imperative that we continue to promote world class healthcare options and services in my region. South Shore Hospital already provides superior services that I believe will be greatly enhanced by this merger. On a personal note, I was quite pleased by the level of care given to a family member at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute. This merger will help to sustain the SSH's services onward into the future.

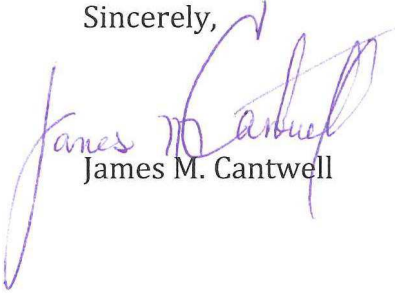
As a state legislator, I am also acutely aware of the lack of services in our area for people with mental health challenges. I was very happy to learn that this merger will bring another affiliation with McLean Hospital, a world leader in psychiatric services, to our region. I have no doubt Partners Health Care can help improve services in various ways through the merger with SSH.

Quality is also an important concern for my constituents, especially the elderly who are particularly wary of unpredictable and costly medical expenses. The settlement negotiated with Partners Health Care limits cost increases at South Shore Hospital over the next few years. I believe it is a balanced approach that serves our strong desires for both affordable and high quality health care.

I believe the state's review of this merger through the Health Policy Commission and now your office has been thorough and transparent. For the benefit of me and my

family, my constituents and all residents of the South Shore, it is time to conclude this review process and allow the merger to move forward. Thank you again for your efforts.

Sincerely,



James M. Cantwell